

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 77-86 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by OPALKA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,259,699); and allows claims 1 and 3-26.

By way of the present amendment, Applicant proposes canceling claims 77-86 without prejudice or disclaimer. Moreover, Applicant proposes amending claims 1, 3, 14, 16, 17, and 19 to improve form. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 1 and 3-26 would remain pending upon entry of the present amendment.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 1 and 3-26 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 77-86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by OPALKA et al. Applicant proposes canceling claims 77-86 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicants respectfully request that the present amendment be entered because the present amendment places the application in immediate condition for allowance.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicant's representative, then

the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite prosecution of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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